

**MISSOURI
PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS
AND TRAINING (POST) PROGRAM**



***Most Frequently Asked Questions
and Answers About
Peace Officer Standards and Training***

Missouri Department of Public Safety
Peace Officer Standards and Training Program
Harry S. Truman Building
301 W. High St., Room 870
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Phone: 573-751-4905
Fax: 573-751-5399
E-mail: post@dps.mo.gov
Website: www.dps.mo.gov/post

INTRODUCTION

Dear Law Enforcement Professional:

The purpose of this publication is to help Missouri Law Enforcement Officers understand the POST requirements as well as provide additional information about peace officer standards and training.

NOTE: The information contained in this booklet is current as of 12/14/01.
Check with POST if you have any questions.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Program	<i>1</i>
POST Forms	<i>2</i>
Licenses	<i>3</i>
Continuing Education	<i>5</i>
Disciplinary Action on a License	<i>8</i>
Reserve Officers	<i>9</i>
POST Commission	<i>10</i>
POST Commission Training Fund	<i>11</i>

PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING (POST) PROGRAM

What is the POST Program?

The Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Program is a regulatory agency that is responsible for the licensing of Missouri peace officers. In addition to the licensing of peace officers, POST is responsible for the licensing of law enforcement training centers as well as law enforcement instructors.

How is the POST Program structured?

The POST Program is divided into five sections:

Administrative Section

Manager
573-751-4819

Training Center Section

Supervisor
573-751-5423

Licensing Section

Supervisor
573-751-3409

Investigative Section

Coordinator
573-526-2765

Continuing Education Section

Coordinator
573-751-2761

Where does POST get its authority?

Chapter 590, RSMo. outlines the licensing and training requirements for Missouri peace officers. The administrative rules governing the licensing and training of peace officers can be found in the Code of State Regulations (CSR) 11 CSR 75-1.010 through 11 CSR 75-11.080.

POST FORMS

Does an agency need to send something to POST when they hire an officer?

Yes. A completed MO Peace/Reserve Officer Commissioning/Employment Form needs to be sent to POST each time an officer is hired by an agency. This form must be submitted no later than 30 days from the date of commissioning for licensed full-time and reserve peace officers. If more than 120 days have passed since the officer was last employed, a criminal history check from the Missouri State Highway Patrol must accompany the form.

Does an agency need to send something to POST when an officer leaves an agency?

Yes. A MO Peace/Reserve Officer Commissioning/Employment Form needs to be sent to POST within 30 days after the officer's last day of commissioning with the law enforcement agency. This includes licensed reserve officers.

Any "Involuntary" Termination taken prior to or during an investigation of an officer must include all applicable records, investigative reports, supporting documentation, charges filed, and, if available, the final disposition.

Any agency providing the information to the POST Program may do so without risk of civil liability. Section 590.180, Section 4 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri (RSMo) states:

"Any person or entity authorized to submit information pursuant to this chapter and doing so in good faith and without negligence shall be immune from all criminal and civil liability arising from the submission of such information and no cause of action of any nature shall arise against such person."

LICENSES

Are there different types of licenses issued to Missouri Peace Officers?

Yes, there are three (3) types of licenses issued by POST to Missouri Peace Officers. There is a Class A, Class B, and Class C license.

What is the difference between these three (3) licenses?

- ◆ Class A (minimum of 600 hours of training)
 - allows employment anywhere in the state of Missouri.
- ◆ Class B (minimum of 470 hours of training)
 - allows employment anywhere in the state of Missouri, except agencies in St. Louis, St. Charles, and Jackson County.
- ◆ Class C (minimum of 120 hours of training)
 - allows employment in cities and counties who have passed an order/ordinance exempting their agency to the 120-hour training level. This license is no longer available after July 1, 2002. *(for a list of these agencies contact POST)*

How can I find out what class of license my agency is required to have?

Contact POST if you are unsure about what license your agency requires for employment.

Should a law enforcement agency be concerned about the type of license an officer has?

Yes. When an officer is commissioned by a Missouri Law Enforcement Agency, the agency must ensure they are licensed to work in their particular geographic location. When in doubt, contact POST.

When does an individual need to get their peace officer license?

Individuals must be licensed to be eligible for commissioning. Upon such licensing, they can be commissioned and will have arrest powers.

Is anyone exempt from the licensing requirement?

No. All peace officers enforcing the general criminal code of the state of Missouri must be licensed.

What are the requirements for an individual to be licensed as a peace officer?

- ◆ A United States citizen
- ◆ 21 years of age
- ◆ High school diploma or its equivalent
- ◆ No Criminal Record including a Suspended Imposition of Sentence (SIS)
- ◆ Documented evidence of completion of a licensed basic training course
- ◆ Pass the Missouri Peace Officer License Exam

How long is a Missouri Peace Officer's license good for?

The license is valid as long as the officer is employed by a law enforcement agency, has met the continuing education requirement each reporting period, and does not commit a violation of

Chapter 590, RSMo.

What happens if the officer becomes unemployed?

If an individual is not commissioned as a peace officer for five (5) consecutive years, regardless if they have met the continuing education requirement, the license will expire.

Can an officer get their license back after it has expired?

Yes. The officer can apply to POST for re-licensing. If their application is approved and they pass the Missouri Peace Officer License Exam they can be re-licensed. This exam is given by POST in Jefferson City, MO.

Can a peace officer from another state or a federal or military peace officer be licensed in Missouri?

Yes. The officer makes application to POST for licensing. If their application is approved and they pass the Missouri Peace Officer License Exam, they may be granted a Missouri peace officer license.

Does a peace officer have to renew their license?

No. It is valid as long as they are commissioned as a peace/reserve officer.

When and where is this exam given?

The exam is given in Jefferson City, MO, at MO Department of Public Safety's Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Program, or with a POST approved proctor. An appointment needs to be made to take the exam by contacting POST or the approved proctor.

What type of information does the Missouri Peace Officer License Exam contain?

1. Only the POST mandated objectives for the 470-hour basic training courses are tested.
2. Test questions are multiple-choice and true and false.
3. There are 200 questions on the exam.
4. There is no time limit to take the exam.

Is there a charge for the examination?

No. There is currently no fee charged by POST. However, some training centers have a proctoring fee.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Does an officer have to attend training to keep their license valid?

Yes. All peace officers and reserve officers licensed in Missouri are required to attend a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours of training during each three (3) year reporting period.

The 48-hours must include a minimum of four (4) hours in each of the core curricula areas:

1. Legal Studies
2. Interpersonal Perspectives
3. Technical Studies
4. Skill Development (complete a minimum of four (4) hours in Firearms Training)

A minimum of 24 hours must come from a POST Commission Approved Provider of continuing education.

When does the continuing education reporting period begin and end?

A Missouri peace officer's three year reporting period will be the first reporting period following their date of licensing, and then every reporting period thereafter.

<u>Reporting Period</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	Jan. 1, 1997 to Dec. 31, 1999
2	Jan. 1, 2000 to Dec. 31, 2002
3	Jan. 1, 2003 to Dec. 31, 2005
4	Jan. 1, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2008
5	Jan. 1, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2011
6	Jan. 1, 2012 to Dec. 31, 2014
7	Jan. 1, 2015 to Dec. 31, 2017
8	Jan. 1, 2018 to Dec. 31, 2020
9	Jan. 1, 2021 to Dec. 31, 2023
10	Jan. 1, 2024 to Dec. 31, 2026

Examples of reporting dates for continuing education hours (CEHs):

Officers Licensed in 1996 and before:

The first date officers had to report their CEHs was **Dec. 31, 1999.** (Reporting period #1)

Their next reporting date will be **Dec. 31, 2002.** (Reporting period #2)

Their next reporting date will be **Dec. 31, 2005.** (Reporting period #3)

Their next reporting date will be **Dec. 31, 2008**. (Reporting period #4) etc.

Officers Licensed in 2001:

The first date officers will be required to report their CEHs will be **Dec. 31, 2005**.
(Reporting period #3)

Their next reporting date will be **Dec. 31, 2008**. (Reporting period #4)

Their next reporting date will be **Dec. 31, 2011**. (Reporting period #5) etc.

Officers Licensed in 2002:

The first date officers will be required to report their CEHs will be **Dec. 31, 2005**.
(Reporting period #3)

Their next reporting date will be **Dec. 31, 2008**. (Reporting period #4)

Their next reporting date will be **Dec. 31, 2011**. (Reporting period #5) etc.

How can continuing education be obtained?

Continuing Education may be obtained by attending training courses put on by a State Licensed Training Academy, POST Pre-Approved Providers, individual courses approved by POST, or law enforcement agency in-service training. It may also be obtained by attending college courses, or instructing law enforcement continuing education courses (not basic training courses).

How does a peace officer determine compliance with the continuing education requirements?

At the end of the three (3) year reporting period:

1. Does the officer have a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours of training?
2. Did a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours come from a POST Approved Provider of continuing education or a course Pre-Approved by POST?
3. Were there four (4) hours of training in each of the four (4) core curricula areas?
4. In the area of Skill Training, did the officer attend a minimum of four (4) hours of some type of firearms training?

√ If the answer is yes to all of the above questions, the officer has met his/her continuing education requirements for that particular reporting period.

√ Hours cannot be carried over from one reporting period to another, (i.e., at the beginning of each reporting period the officer must obtain a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours of “new” training).

√ Training attended after the officer’s initial date of licensing may count toward the officer’s first three-year reporting period requirement.

Is an officer required to meet the continuing education requirements during the five (5) years of unemployment or commissioning?

Yes. If during the five (5) years of unemployment or non-commissioning the officer decides to become re-employed or re-commissioned as a peace officer, he/she must have met the continuing education requirement.

How does a peace officer report continuing education hours to POST?

At the end of each reporting period, the employing agency or the officer will be required to confirm with POST the continuing education requirement was met. Any unemployed or non-commissioned officers meeting the requirement may send the compliance information to POST.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION ON A LICENSE

How can a peace officer license be disciplined?

1. If an officer is unable to perform the functions of a peace officer with reasonable competency or reasonable safety as a result of a mental condition, including alcohol or substance abuse.
2. Has committed any criminal offense, whether or not a criminal charge has been filed.
3. Has committed any act while on active duty or under color of law that involves moral turpitude or a reckless disregard for the safety of the public or any person.
4. Has caused a material fact to be misrepresented for the purpose of obtaining or retaining a peace officer commission or any license issued pursuant to this chapter.
5. Has violated a condition of any order of probation lawfully issued by the director.
6. Has violated a provision of this chapter or a rule promulgated pursuant to this chapter.

RESERVE OFFICERS

Does an individual appointed as a reserve/part-time officer have the same power as a full-time peace officer?

Only if they are the holder of a valid peace officer license, and commissioned.

Can an individual who is not licensed as a peace officer work in the capacity of a reserve officer?

This question needs to be posed to your agency's legal counsel as well as your agency's insurance carrier.

Do licensed peace officers commissioned as reserve officers need to meet the continuing education requirements?

Yes. Any individual licensed as a peace officer, whether they are commissioned as a reserve or not, is required to meet the continuing education requirement.

POST COMMISSION

What is the POST Commission?

The Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission is a nine (9) member board consisting of three (3) chiefs of police, three (3) sheriffs, one (1) certified training center director, one (1) representative of a state law enforcement agency and one (1) public member. Each board member is appointed by the governor for a three (3) year term.

What are the duties of the POST Commission?

The POST Commission is responsible for formulating definitions, establishing core training curriculum and rules for the administration of POST, and to guide and advise the director of Public Safety concerning his/her duties as outlined in Chapter 590.

POST COMMISSION TRAINING FUND

What is the POST Fund?

This fund provides financial assistance to county and municipal agencies for the training of their law enforcement officers and other agency personnel.

What can the POST Training Fund be used for?

The fund may only be used to pay for continuing education training.

How is the POST Fund Dispersed?

Agencies contributing less than \$500 shall receive a minimum distribution of \$500. The balance of the fund shall be distributed to participating agencies that contributed \$500 or more by a percentage based on the amount of an agency's contribution.